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CARDIN PLEASED WITH MILITARY ASSESSMENT IN AFGHANISTAN BUT CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF POLITICAL AND CIVILIAN PROGRESS

Washington, DC – **U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD)** a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, released the following statement today after the Obama Administration released its strategy review of the war in Afghanistan.

“I am pleased to hear that we remain on track for beginning the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan next summer. Secretary of Defense Gates’ statement earlier today that the progress made over the past three to four months against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban is encouraging. Yet, the situation is clearly fragile and I remain concerned about the lack of development of political and civilian milestones.

“The military’s improvement in Afghanistan is a testament to the brave men and women who continue to serve. During this season, I would like to thank both our service members and their families. I intend to hold the administration to their word and ensure that we bring our troops home in a timely and honorable manner, beginning next summer.”